

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Water Resources Branch

GROUND WATER PROBABILITY  
COUNTY OF BRANT

Descriptive Notes

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W3100  
[no. 17]

Introduction

Ground water in the County of Brant is an important resource used extensively for agricultural, municipal, industrial and domestic purposes. The availability of ground water, however, is not uniform throughout the county and in some areas this could limit the future expansion of existing activities and restrain future land-use development. This publication was designed to provide an insight into ground-water availability patterns in the county and to provide essential information on which planning for future water-resource development can be based.

The maps in this publication describe ground-water availability in terms of probable quantity of water, depth at which water is commonly found, and water quality at sampled locations. Because of the complexity of ground-water occurrence in the county, the foregoing information is presented on three map sheets:

- Sheet 1: Supplies in overburden
- Sheet 2: Supplies in bedrock
- Sheet 3: Water quality

Hydrogeologic interpretations have been based on data obtained from over 1700 water-well records on file with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, and from past documented studies of ground-water availability in various parts of the county. The appropriate references are listed on each map sheet. The reliability of the interpretations vary throughout the county and a periodic updating or revision of the present interpretations may be necessary as new hydrogeologic information becomes available.



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## Evaluation of Prospective Well Sites

A step-by-step procedure is presented to determine the availability of ground water at a prospective well site in terms of probable yields, the likely depth of the water-bearing zone, and the likely water quality. This information can subsequently be used in other considerations such as: well costs, methods of well construction, pump type and possible water treatment. The maps should be used in the suggested sequence in order to obtain the most economical wells. Map 1 indicates yields from the shallowest formations and should be consulted first. Progressively deeper and more costly wells will have to be constructed as water is sought from deeper formations in order to obtain the yields indicated on maps 2 and 5.

To evaluate yields:

1. locate the well site on Map 1 of Sheet 1 (Yields from Overburden within 60 Feet of Surface);
2. note the colour of the map at the well site;
3. refer to the legend and relate the colour to the appropriate probable yield;
4. if the probable yield does not meet your water requirements, repeat steps one through three using Map 2 (Yields from Overburden between 60 Feet from Surface and Bedrock). Similarly, if the probable yield determined from Map 2 is insufficient, repeat the same steps using Map 5 on Sheet 2 (Yields from Bedrock).

To evaluate the depths to water-bearing zones:

5. if Map 1 was selected in the above steps, water-bearing zones occur within 60 feet of surface;  
if Map 2 was selected, locate the well site on Map 3 and note the depths to the water-bearing zones by using the colour-coded legend;  
if Map 5 was selected, locate the well site on Map 6 and note the depths to the water-bearing zones by using the colour-coded legend;
6. the exact depths to water-bearing zones for individual wells are shown on maps 1, 2 and 5.

To evaluate water quality:

7. to evaluate the likely ground-water quality at a potential well site, locate the well on the selected yield map and note the nearby ground-water sampling points. The chemical analyses of these samples are found on Sheet 3 in the Inorganic Chemical Analyses tables 1, 2 and 3.

### Ground-Water Yield

The probable quantity of water available to wells in shallow overburden, deep overburden and bedrock is shown in maps 1, 2 and 5, respectively. These maps indicate probable yields of less than 2 gpm (gallons per minute), 2-10 gpm, 10-50 gpm, and greater than 50 gpm. Because of variations in the local hydrogeology, type of well construction, and in the reliability of available data, the probable well yields indicated on the maps may not everywhere represent yields available to all wells. However, the indicated yields are thought to be good approximations in most areas. In cases where reliable, long-term yields are sought, it is necessary to undertake detailed hydrogeologic investigations and pumping tests.

In shallow overburden (Map 1), only yields of less than 2 gpm and 2-10 gpm are indicated since significant areas of higher yields are not present. Most wells in shallow overburden in the eastern half of the county are likely to yield less than 2 gpm, and may not supply sufficient water when pumped for even short periods of time. A more sustained yield can be achieved by the use of large-diameter, bored wells since they can store larger amounts of water than ordinary drilled wells. Even so, only modest water demands can be satisfied by shallow bored wells in the eastern half of the county, especially during low water-level periods in the summer.

Adequate domestic supplies of 2-10 gpm are readily available in the western half of the county. These supplies are generally obtained from surface or near-surface sand and gravel deposits using dug, bored or shallow drilled wells and single sand-point systems. Supplies of 2-10 gpm can also be obtained from gravels on bedrock located in the New Durham-Harley area of Burford Township, and in the Oshweken area of Tuscarora Township. Higher well yields for irrigation can usually be supplied by a number of shallow sand-point systems.

In deep overburden (Map 2), large areas of less than 2 gpm are located in the townships of Burford, Onondaga and Tuscarora, and are due to relatively impermeable overburden materials and limited overburden thickness. These areas have had generally little ground-water exploration and may contain undiscovered sources of higher yields. Areas of 10-50 gpm, and greater than 50 gpm, occur in the county but are unevenly distributed.

Most wells in bedrock (Map 5) are likely to yield at least 2-10 gpm, but many bedrock wells obtain water of poor quality. Areas of higher probable yields exist throughout the county, particularly in southern Oakland and Burford townships.

#### Depths to Water-Bearing Zones

Depths to water-bearing zones maps (maps 3 and 6) indicate the depths at which wells can obtain the yields reported on maps 2 and 5.

Most water-bearing zones in deep overburden (Map 3) are found within an interval of 61-100 feet from the surface. Deeper zones within intervals of 101-150 and 151-200 feet are frequent in South Dumfries and in the northern part of Burford Township.

In bedrock (Map 6), most water supplies are obtained from water-bearing fissures found within the first 20 feet of bedrock. The deepest water-bearing zones occur most frequently in South Dumfries Township (251 to 300 feet), and the shallowest zones occur in Burford, Onondaga and Tuscarora townships (less than 60 feet).

#### Overburden Thickness

Areas of notably thin overburden (less than 60 feet) are present in western Burford, eastern Tuscarora and Onondaga townships, in the northeast corner of South Dumfries township, and along the Grand River. Overburden is thickest in the northern part of South Dumfries Township (250 to 300 feet).

#### Bedrock Geology and Topography

Bedrock geology, as described by Sanford (1969), is predominantly limestone and dolomite with some shale.

Although bedrock topography is somewhat irregular, bedrock surface elevation generally increases towards the north and west. In the north, bedrock surface elevations reach a high in excess of 800 feet in two small areas north of St. George, in South Dumfries Township. In the west, elevations over 850 feet are present in the northwestern corner of Burford Township.

Two major bedrock topographic features in the county are the Onondaga Escarpment and the Dundas Valley. The Onondaga Escarpment enters the Township of Oakland between elevations of 650-720 feet and trends northwest-southeast in the area, becoming less defined as it extends into Burford township. The location of the Dundas Valley is indicated by the 575-

foot contours north of Langford, where it enters Brantford Township as two poorly-defined segments. One segment extends west to the Grand River northeast of Paris, and the other segment has been interpreted to extend to a bedrock depression southwest of the City of Brantford.

### Water Quality

Ground-water quality in overburden is generally good, although much of the water is very hard; ground water from bedrock, as well as from overburden close to bedrock, is often of poor quality. Sulphurous water is obtained frequently from both of the latter sources and is recognized by its distasteful 'rotten-egg' smell (hydrogen sulphide gas). Sulphurous water may also contain high concentrations of sulphate which can have laxative effects on people unaccustomed to the water.

The inorganic chemical quality of ground water at any location in the county can be estimated by inspecting the analyses of nearby ground-water samples shown in tables 1, 2 and 3 on Sheet 3 (locations of samples are shown on maps 1, 2 and 5). The samples were taken from selected overburden and bedrock wells and indicate the quality of ground water in the common water-bearing zones in different parts of the county.

Of the 105 samples taken, 34 were obtained from overburden wells within 60 feet of surface (Table 1), 26 samples were taken from overburden wells between 60 feet from surface and bedrock (Table 2), and 45 samples indicate water quality in bedrock (Table 3).

The following common inorganic water quality criteria are contained in the Ontario Ministry of the Environment publication "Guidelines and Criteria for Water Quality Management in Ontario, 1974". These criteria are maximum concentrations that are recommended for public and private ground-water supplies, and for livestock use. While the criteria should generally be adhered to, slight excesses are usually not harmful. In cases where the quality of the water supply is in doubt, local health authorities should be consulted.

#### A. Public Supplies

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Permissible Criteria (mg/l)</u>
Boron (B)	1.0
Chloride (Cl)	250
Fluoride (F)	2.4
Hydrogen Sulphide (H <sub>2</sub> S)	0.1
Iron (Fe)	0.3
Nitrate (N)	10
Sulphate (SO <sub>4</sub> )	250
Total Dissolved Solids	500
pH	6.0-8.5

B. Livestock

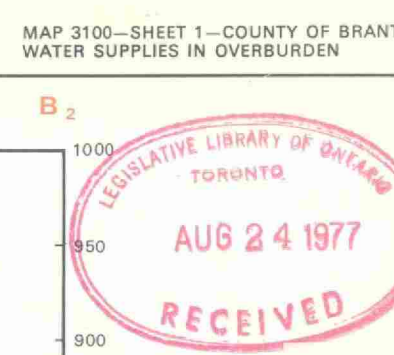
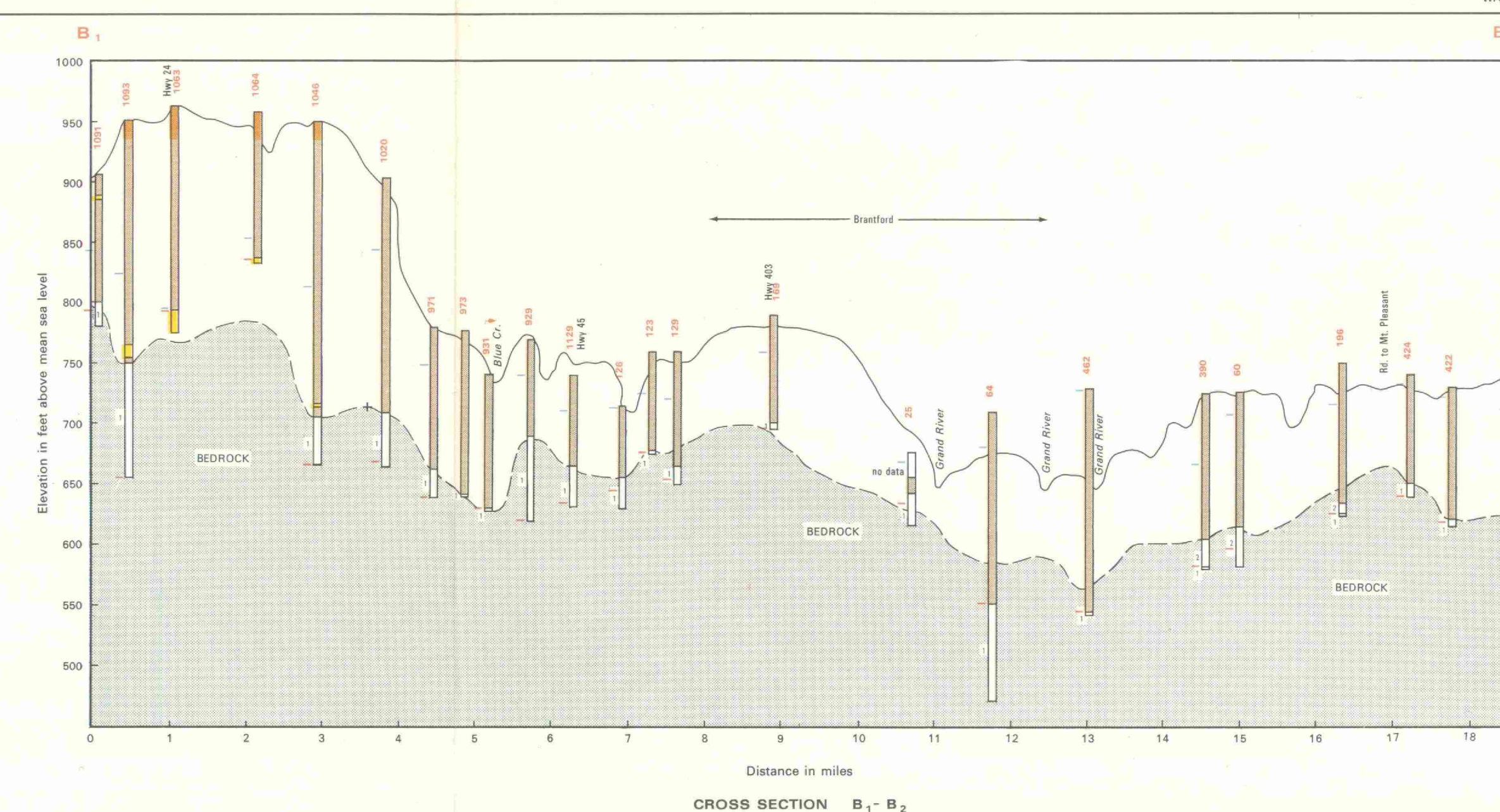
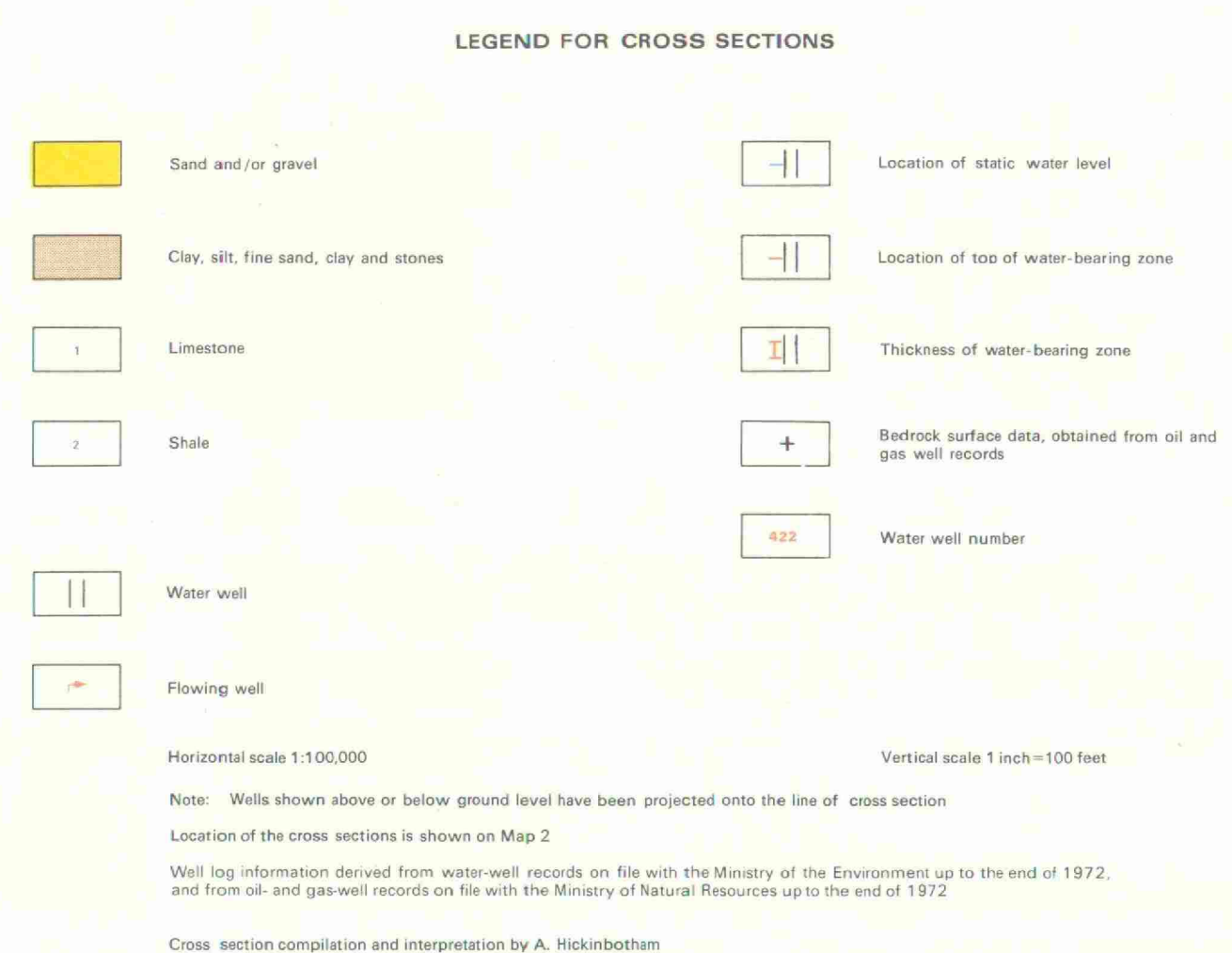
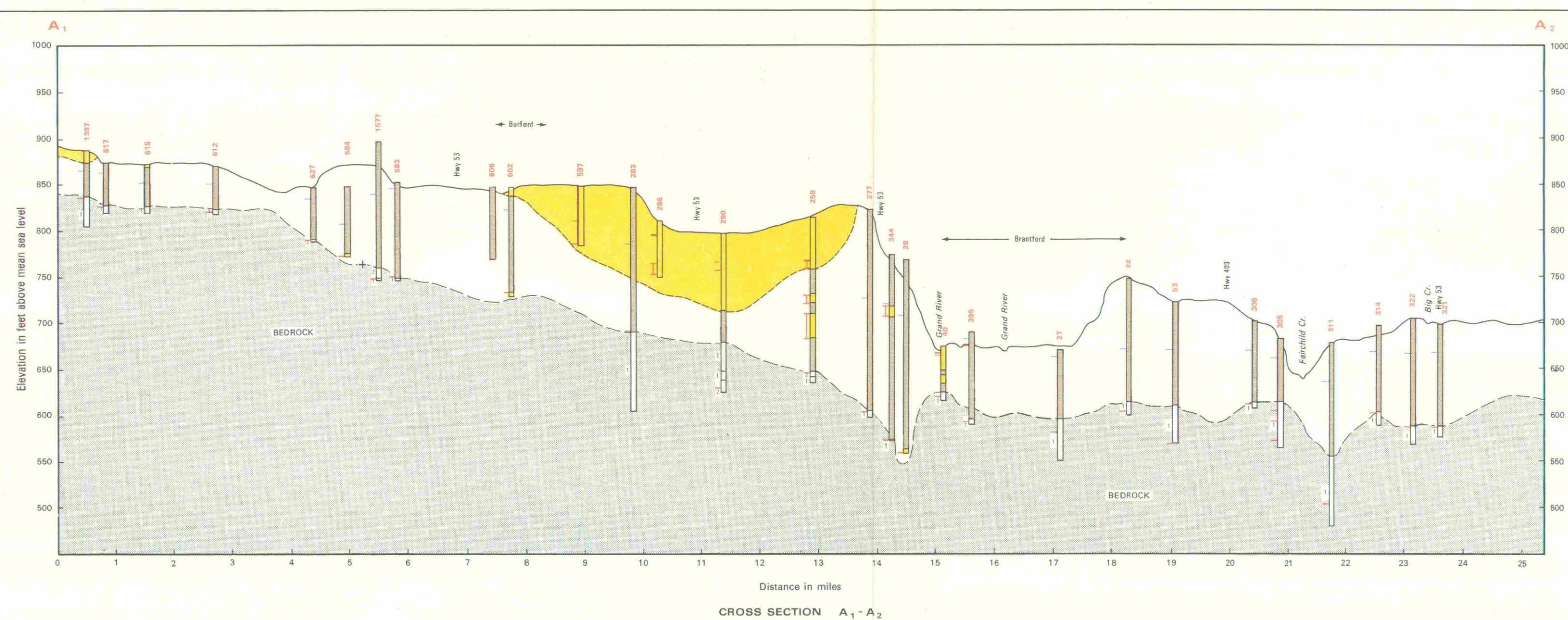
<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Permissible Criteria (mg/l)</u>
Flouride (F)	2.4
Nitrate (N)	20
Sulphate (SO <sub>4</sub> )	1000
Total Dissolved Solids	2500

Sulphurous Water in Bedrock Wells

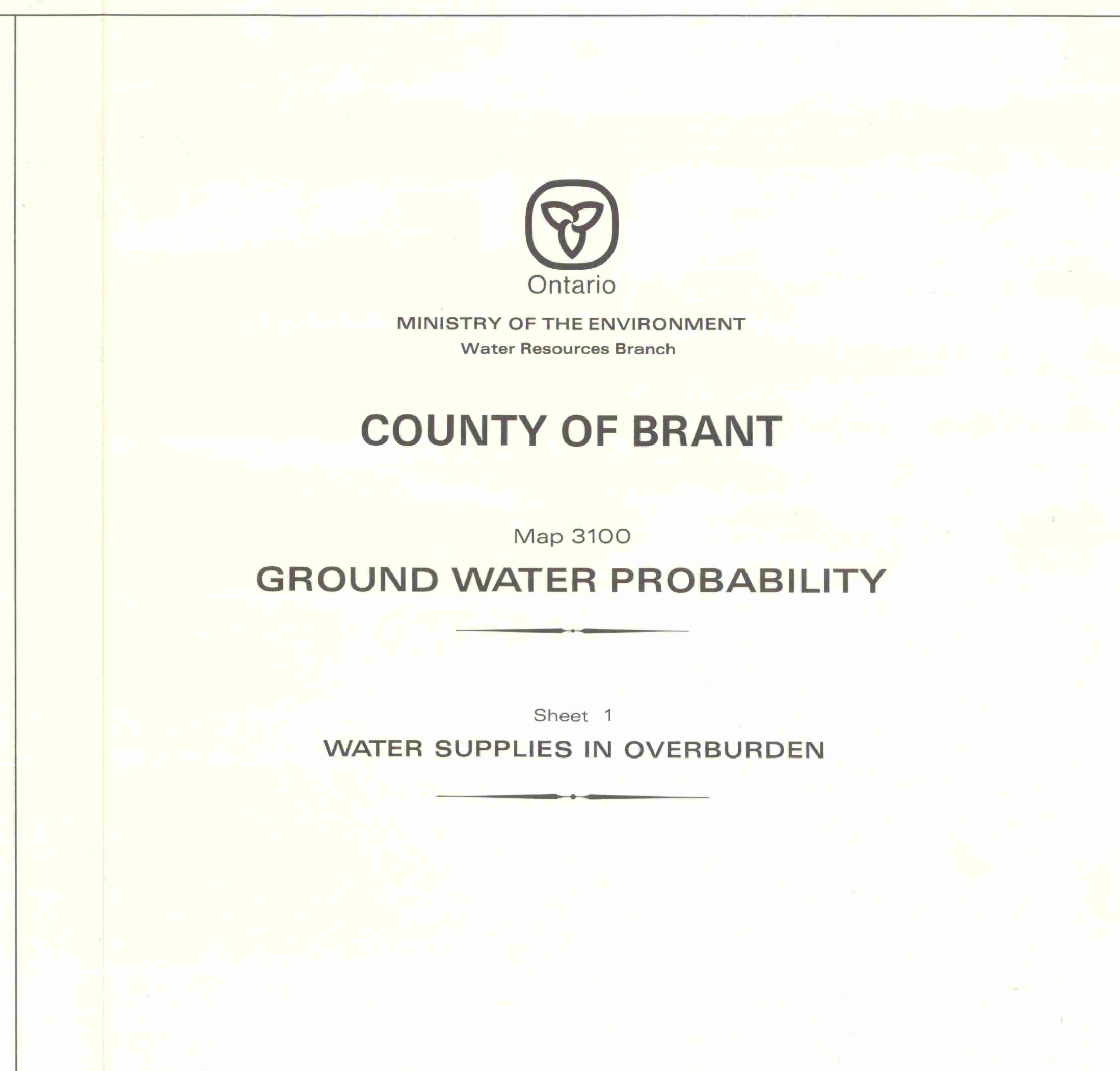
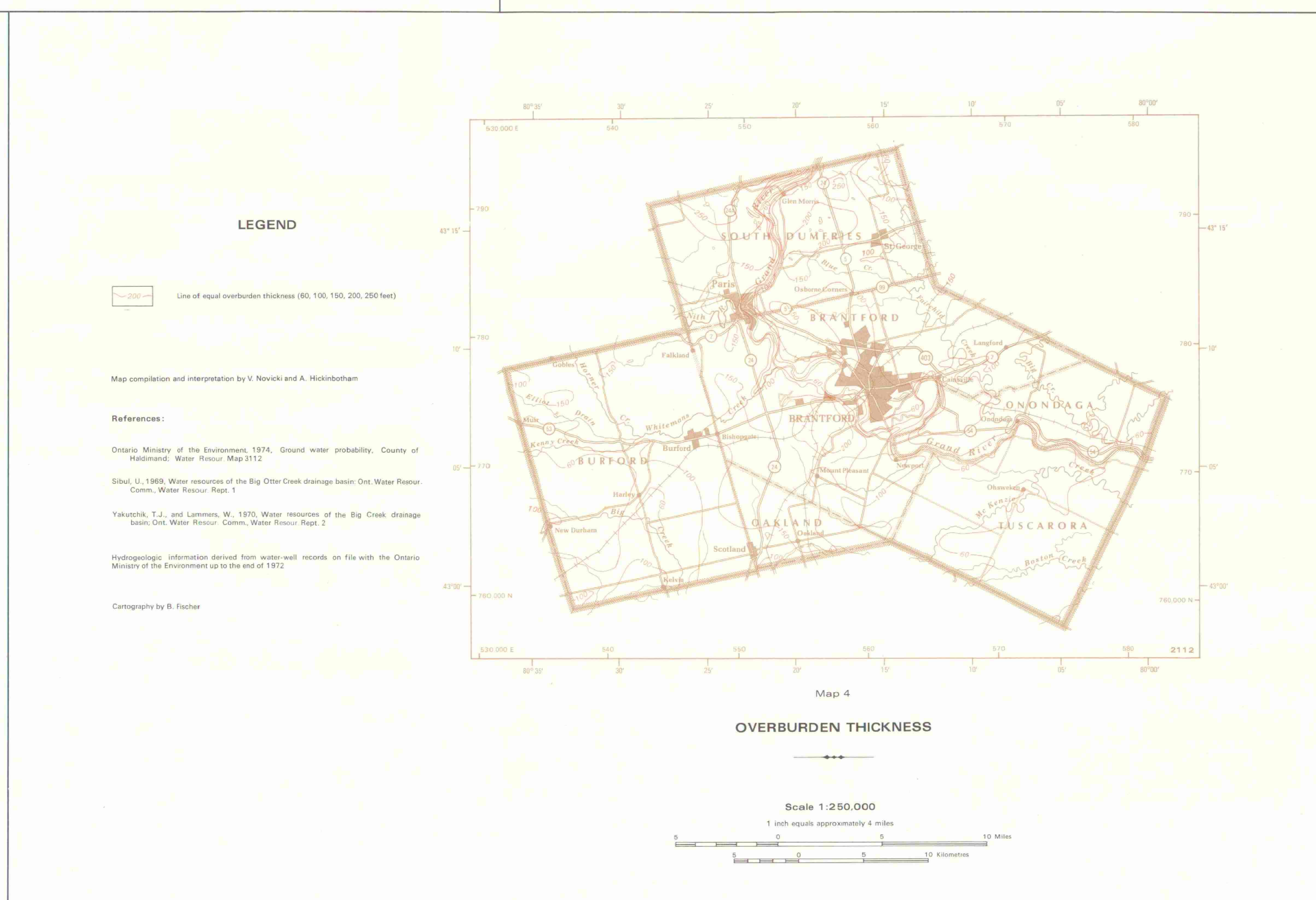
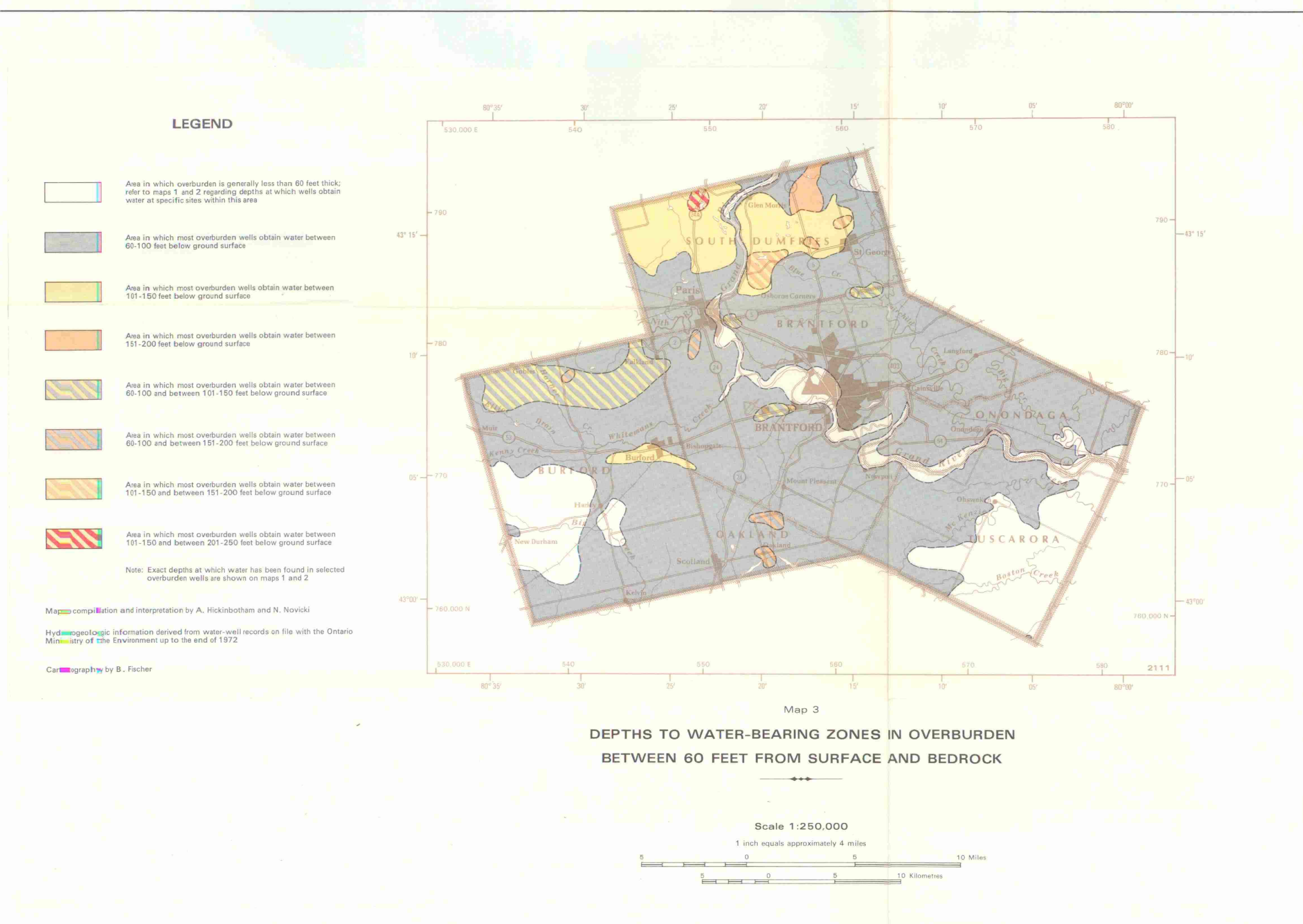
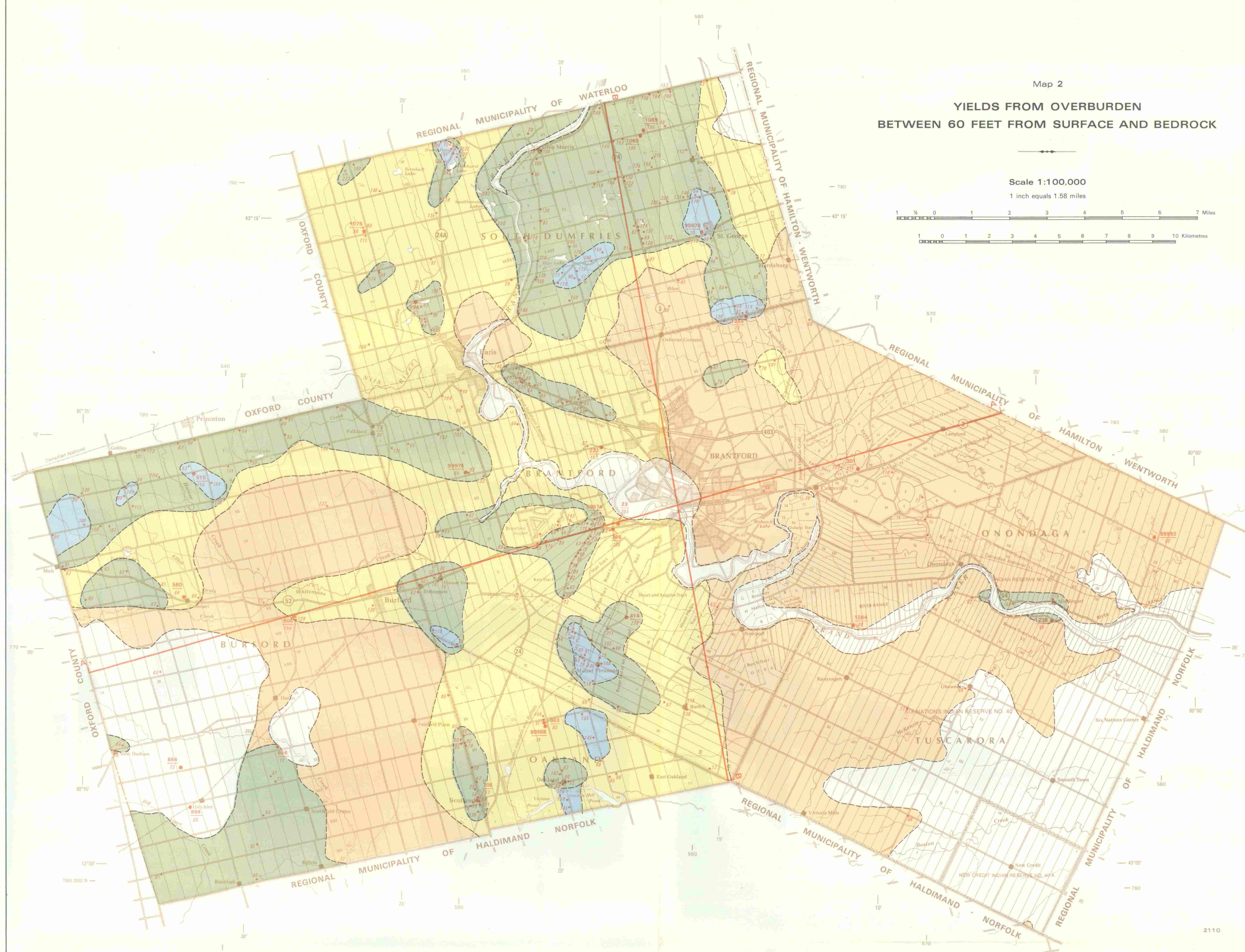
The occurrence of sulphurous water in the county is erratic, but it can be assumed that if an area on Map 8 has no record of sulphurous wells, it is likely that a proposed well drilled into bedrock will also not obtain sulphurous water. However, it is possible that some wells with sulphurous water may not have been recorded, and therefore, there may be actually more sulphurous wells than those shown on the map.

The depths from the top of bedrock to the sulphurous water-bearing zones are highly variable and have no discernible trends in the county. However, in an effort to avoid sulphurous water, adequate supplies should first be sought from overburden. If this is not possible, ground water in bedrock should be sought at depths shallower than nearby wells reporting sulphurous waters.





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- LEGEND**
- Area where wells are likely to yield less than 2 gallons per minute; if facilities are encountered obtaining sufficient quantities of water for any purpose
- Area where wells are likely to yield 2 to 10 gallons per minute; supplies are generally adequate for domestic and stock purposes
- Area where wells are likely to yield 10 to 50 gallons per minute; supplies are generally plentiful for domestic and stock purposes, adequate for most commercial and small industrial purposes, but poor to fair as a source for irrigation
- Area where wells are likely to yield more than 50 gallons per minute; supplies are generally adequate for most purposes
- Bedrock well indicating depth to top of water-bearing zone (in feet)
- Bedrock well with exact depth to water-bearing zone not known; number indicates depth to top of rock, water-bearing zone occurs below this depth
- Dry bedrock well; bedrock penetration (in feet)
- Ground-water sample location: sample or well number  
depth to top of water-bearing zone (in feet)
- Water sample analyses are shown in Table 3

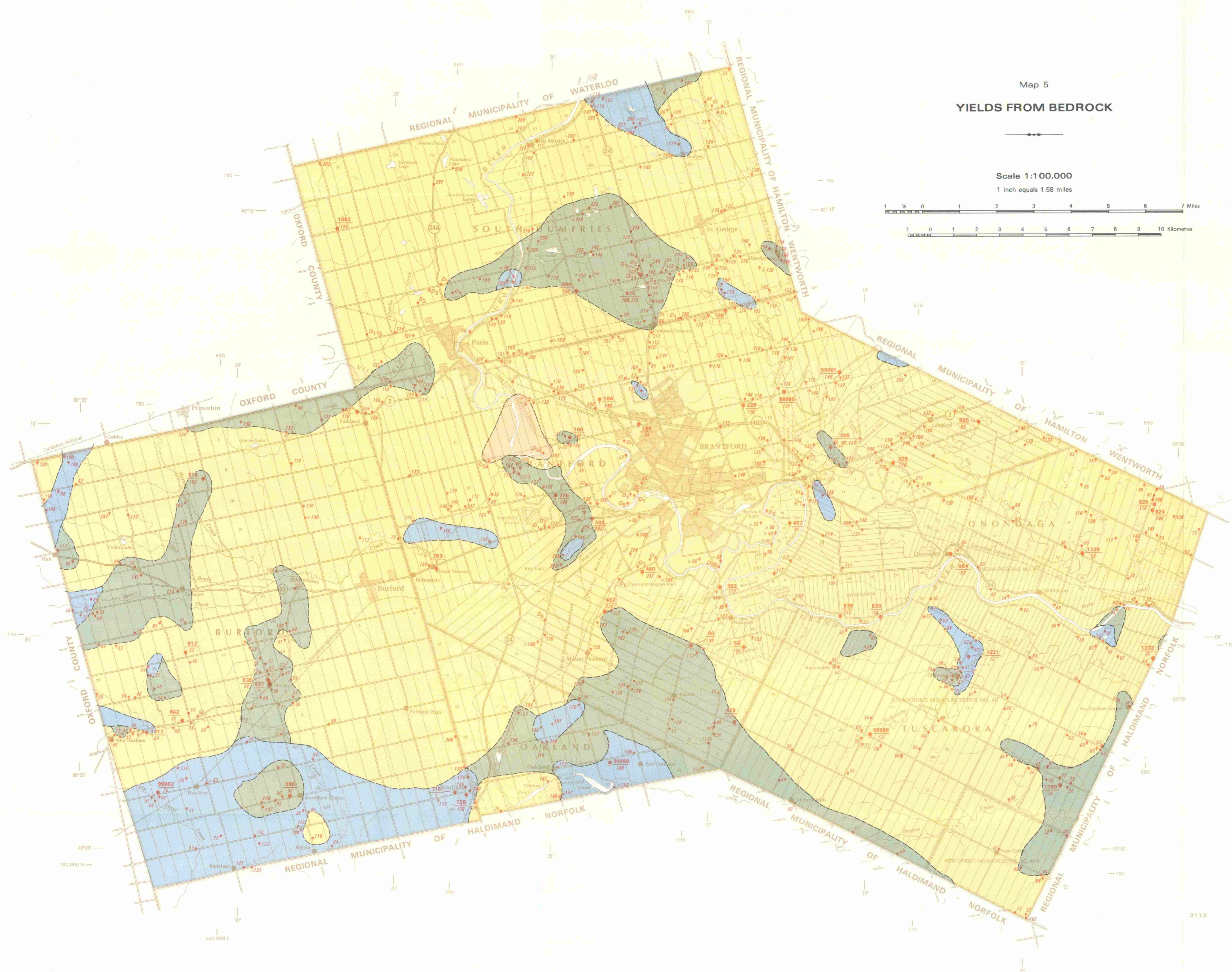
Map compilation and interpretation by A. Hickelbein and V. Nowicki

**References:**

Ontario Water Resources Commission, 1966, Middle Grand River region water supply study  
—, 1964, Report on water resources survey, County of Brant  
Schul, U., 1969, Water resources of the Big Creek drainage basin, Ont. Water Resour. Comm., Water Resour. Rept. 1  
Yalovich, T. J., and Lammens, W., 1970, Water resources of the Big Creek drainage basin, Ont. Water Resour. Comm., Water Resour. Rept. 2

Hydrogeologic information derived from water-well records on file with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment up to the end of 1972

Cartography by S. Fischer and R. Zimmermann

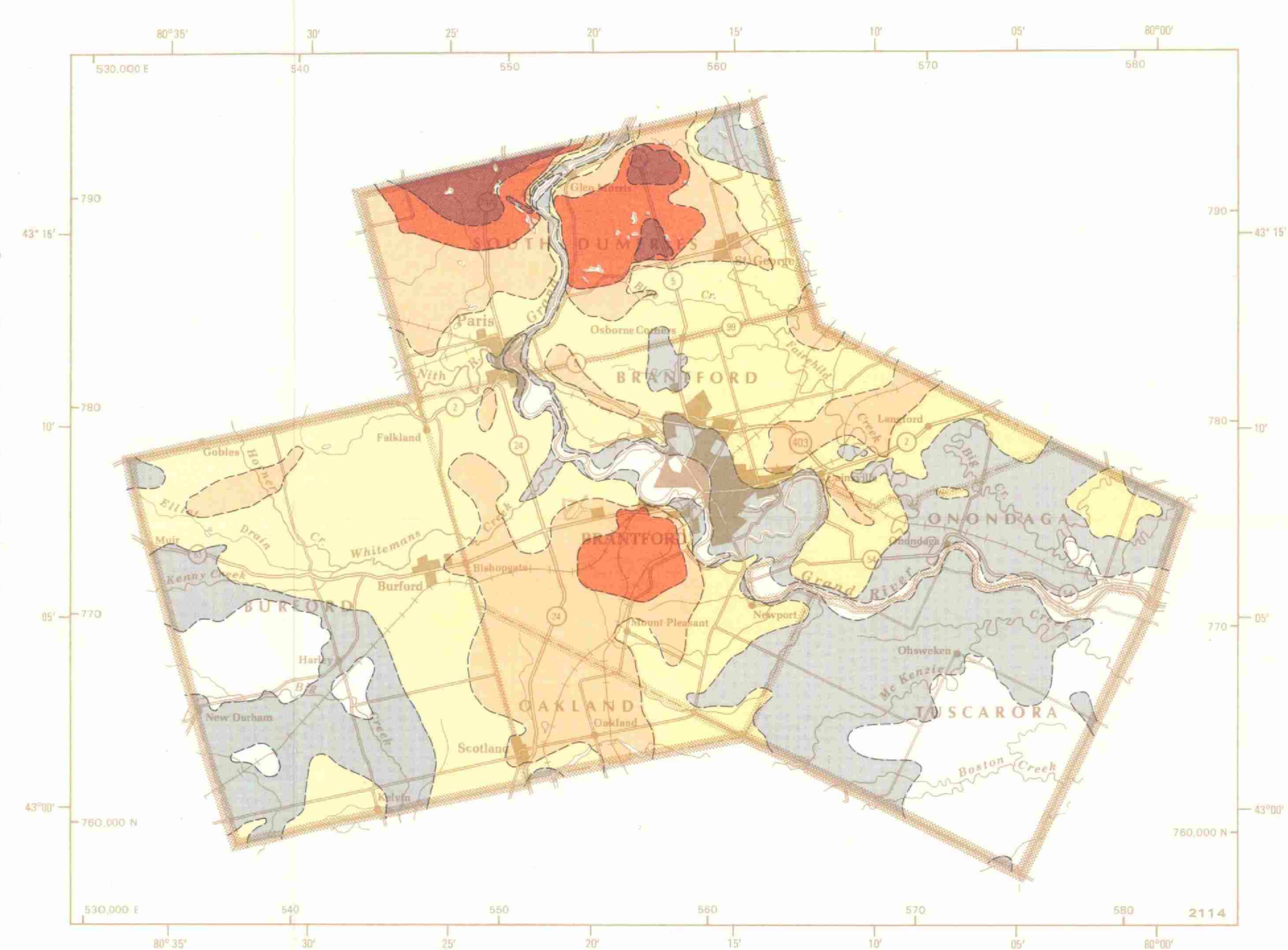


- LEGEND**
- Area in which most bedrock wells obtain water between ground surface and 60 feet in depth
- Area in which most bedrock wells obtain water between 61-100 feet below ground surface
- Area in which most bedrock wells obtain water between 101-150 feet below ground surface
- Area in which most bedrock wells obtain water between 151-200 feet below ground surface
- Area in which most bedrock wells obtain water between 201-250 feet below ground surface
- Area in which most bedrock wells obtain water between 251-300 feet below ground surface
- Note: Exact depths at which water has been found in specific bedrock wells are shown on Map 5

**References:**

Map compilation and interpretation by A. Hickelbein and V. Nowicki  
Hydrogeologic information derived from water-well records on file with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment up to the end of 1972

Cartography by S. Fischer

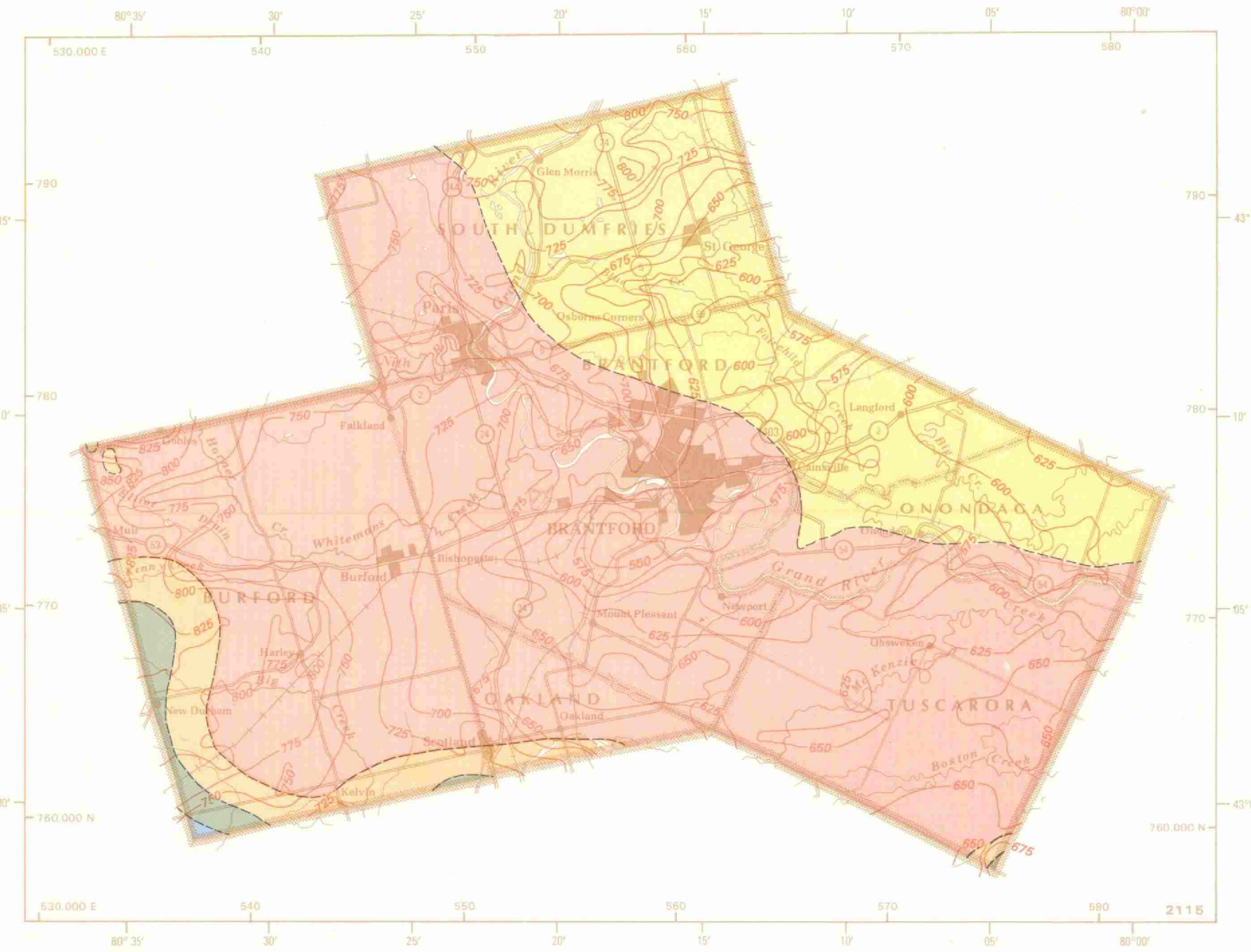


- LEGEND**
- PALAEZOIC**
- DEVONIAN**
- DETROIT RIVER GROUP: limestone and dolomite
- LOWER DEVONIAN**
- BOIS BLANC FORMATION: dolomite and limestone
- SILURIAN**
- UPPER SILURIAN**
- BASS ISLAND FORMATION: dolomite
- SAUNA FORMATION: dolomite, shale and gypsum
- MIDDLE SILURIAN**
- GUELPH FORMATION: dolomite
- Geologic boundary, approximate
- Bedrock surface elevation contour, interval 25 feet (All elevations in feet above mean sea level)

**References:**

Bedrock: topography interpretation by A. Hickelbein; bedrock geology after Sanford (1969)  
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—, 1963, Pleistocene geology of the Hamilton-Galt area, Ontario, Ont. Geol. Min. and Northern Affairs, Ind. Min. Rept. 37  
Ontario Ministry of the Environment, 1974, Ground water probability, County of Haldimand-Norfolk, Ont. Geol. Min. and Northern Affairs, Ind. Min. Rept. 37  
Sanford, B. U., 1969, Geology of the Toronto-Windsor area, Ontario, Ont. Geol. Min. and Northern Affairs, Ind. Min. Rept. 37  
—, 1964, Haldimand County and parts of Brant, Wentworth and Lincoln counties, Ontario, Ont. Geol. Min. and Northern Affairs, Ind. Min. Rept. 37  
Schul, U., 1969, Water resources of the Big Creek drainage basin, Ont. Water Resour. Comm., Water Resour. Rept. 1  
Yalovich, T. J., and Lammens, W., 1970, Water resources of the Big Creek drainage basin, Ont. Water Resour. Comm., Water Resour. Rept. 2  
Bedrock surface elevations derived from water-well records on file with the Ministry of the Environment up to the end of 1972

Cartography by S. Fischer



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MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
Water Resources Branch

**COUNTY OF BRANT**

Map 3100  
**GROUND WATER PROBABILITY**

Sheet 2  
**WATER SUPPLIES IN BEDROCK**











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